

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 251

To amend the Ethics Reform Act of 1989 to prevent any action to dissolve, diminish the scope of the mission of, or limit the activities of, the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct during certain investigations.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 1995

Mr. GUTIERREZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

A BILL

To amend the Ethics Reform Act of 1989 to prevent any action to dissolve, diminish the scope of the mission of, or limit the activities of, the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct during certain investigations.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “House Ethics Protec-
5 tion Act of 1995”.

1 **SEC. 2. COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CON-**
2 **DUCT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

3 Section 29d(b) of the Ethics Reform Act of 1989 (2
4 U.S.C. 29d(b)) is amended by striking subsection (b) and
5 inserting the following:

6 “(b) STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION OF COMMIT-
7 TEE.—

8 “(1) COMMITTEE COMPOSITION.—The respec-
9 tive party caucus or conference of the House of Rep-
10 resentatives shall each nominate to the House of
11 Representatives at the beginning of each Congress
12 seven members to serve on the Committee on Stand-
13 ards of Official Conduct.

14 “(2) STRUCTURAL CHANGES TO COMMITTEE ON
15 STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT PROHIBITED
16 DURING CERTAIN INVESTIGATIONS.—If any member
17 who was the subject of an investigation during the
18 previous Congress also serves in the current Con-
19 gress, the following actions are prohibited:

20 “(A) action to disband the Committee on
21 Standards of Official Conduct;

22 “(B) action to shift jurisdiction of the
23 Committee on Standards of Official Conduct to
24 any other committee;

1 “(C) action to combine the Committee on
2 Standards of Official Conduct with any other
3 committee or subcommittee;

4 “(D) action making the Committee on
5 Standards of Official Conduct a subcommittee;

6 “(E) action to change the number of mem-
7 bers nominated by either party caucus to the
8 committee.

9 “(3) RECUSAL OF CERTAIN MEMBERS.—A
10 member of the House of Representatives shall not
11 participate in the procedure nominating members to
12 the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct if
13 the member was a subject of an investigation by the
14 Committee on Standards of Official Conduct during
15 the current or previous session of Congress.

16 “(4) LIMITS ON POWER OF THE SPEAKER OF
17 THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO APPOINT
18 MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF
19 OFFICIAL CONDUCT.—The Speaker of the House
20 may not take any action or exercise any power re-
21 garding the appointment of members to the Commit-
22 tee on Standards of Official Conduct if the member
23 who is Speaker is or has been the subject of an in-
24 vestigation by the Committee during the current or
25 previous session of Congress.”.

1 **SEC. 3. INVESTIGATIONS BY PREVIOUS CONGRESS.**

2 Section 29d of the Ethics Reform Act of 1989 (2
3 U.S.C. 29d) is further amended by adding at the end the
4 following:

5 “(k) REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON POST-
6 PONED INVESTIGATIONS.—

7 “(1) REPORT.—Within 30 days after the later
8 of the date on which a new session of Congress as-
9 sembles or the date of the enactment of this Act, the
10 Committee on Standards of Official Conduct shall
11 report to the House on each investigation conducted
12 and matter heard by the Committee on Standards of
13 Official Conduct during the previous Congress for
14 which final action was postponed or otherwise left
15 unresolved.

16 “(2) CONTENT OF REPORT.—Each report shall
17 include recommendations for further hearings, inves-
18 tigation, and potential reproof or other administra-
19 tive action.

20 “(3) ORDER OF REPORTS.—If more than one
21 member of the current Congress was investigated by
22 the previous Congress, the Committee on Standards
23 of Official Conduct shall submit reports in the order
24 in which the members of the current Congress took
25 the oath of office pursuant to section 30 of the Re-
26 vised Statutes of the United States (2 U.S.C. 25).

1 “(l) INVESTIGATION DEFINED.—For purposes of this
2 Act, a member of Congress is deemed a subject of an in-
3 vestigation during the previous Congress if during the pre-
4 vious session of Congress the Committee on Standards of
5 Official Conduct solicited material or information in re-
6 sponse to a complaint filed against the member, or if the
7 Committee on Standards of Official Conduct held one or
8 more sessions to examine or discuss any findings regard-
9 ing a complaint filed against a member.”.

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